

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2101

EXDIS

CORRECTED COPY - (LONDON ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

FROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

IO FOR ASST. SECY LEWIS

PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY AND COMMERCE FOR UNDER SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PORG, IT

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ILO ENVOY MEETINGS IN ROME

1. MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR, LABOR MINISTER TOROS AND UNDERSECRETARY FOREIGN MINISTRY GRANELLI. ALSO HAD DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PLAJA AND MINISTER FALCHI.

2. IN LIGHT OF ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS NOT SURPRISING THAT IN
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FORMAL MEETINGS ITALIANS RESPONDED IN FRIENDLY FASHION BUT

WITHOUT ANY REAL INDICATION OF DECISIVE POLICY CHANGE. THEY ALL INSTINCTIVELY THOUGHT IN TERMS OF FURTHER AGO TYPE COMPROMISES. I BELIEVE AT MINIMUM I BELIEVE I MADE CLEAR THAT TIME PAST FOR IMAGINATIVE BUT MEANINGLESS TACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS. I SAID WE WERE NOT ASKING ALLIES TO DO ANYTHING FOR US BUT TO REEXAMINE THEIR COMMITMENT TO ILO PRINCIPLES AND MAKE DECISION ON BASIS OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS. THEY ALL OBSERVED THAT US WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE CATASTROPHY AND I DISAGREED, EXPRESSING VIEW THAT FOR BOTH OURSELVES AND EUROPE A WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE PROFITABLE TO CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT DRIFT; IN THAT EVENT EUROPE MIGHT FACE UP TO THE TOUGH QUESTIONS BETTER WITHOUT US.

3. RUMOR PROMISED THE MOST SENIOR POLITICAL ATTENTION TO THE QUESTIONS WE WERE RAISING AND OFFERED ITALIAN COOPERATION WITHIN EC CONTEXT AND BILATERALLY (BUT EMPHASIZED FORMER).

4. AT DINNER PLAJA, UNTIL RECENTLY ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT UN, INDICATED A KEEN AWARENESS OF EXACTLY WHAT INTELLECTUAL FORCES IN THE US HAD COMBINED TO PRODUCE USG POSITION ON ILO. HE ALSO MANIFESTED SENSITIVITY TO ALL OF THE BROADER QUESTIONS WHICH THE ILO BRINGS INTO FOCUS. ALTHOUGH CANDIDLY DESCRIBING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND US PERCEPTIONS OF THE APPROPRIATE APPROACH TO MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY HE HELD OUT HOPE. HE CONCEDED THAT US/ILO POSITION WAS AND WOULD FORCE EUROPE TO CAREFULLY EVALUATE WHERE THEY AND US WERE GOING AND HE THOUGHT THAT RUMOR MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO MOVE SUBSTANTIALLY CLOSER TO US POSITION.

5. COMMENT: ON THIS ISSUE RIGHT NOW GOI A BOWL OF JELLO.VOLPE

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